



The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) is the organization that represents the deans, faculty and students of accredited graduate schools of public health in the United States and Puerto Rico. ASPH member schools, including both public and private institutions, represent the primary education system that trains the personnel needed to operate our nation's public health, disease prevention and health promotion programs.

ASPH's mission is to improve the public's health by advancing professional and graduate education, research and service in public health.

In order to achieve its mission and fulfill its vision, ASPH:

- ❖ provides a forum for communication among member schools and the public health community;
- ❖ identifies and disseminates strategies to increase diversity of faculty, students, and staff in SPH;
- ❖ initiates cooperative actions and builds international, national, and local coalitions with other organizations whose mission is to improve the public's health;
- ❖ identifies and expands funding resources to support SPH;
- ❖ provides a focus and a platform for the enhancement of existing and emerging academic public health programs;
- ❖ works with various agencies of the federal government on projects aimed at strengthening public health education and the public health profession;
- ❖ assists member schools in the development and coordination of national health policies;
- ❖ serves as an information center for governmental and private groups and individuals whose concerns overlap with those of higher education for public health;
- ❖ increase funding for the activities of member schools; and
- ❖ assists in meeting national goals of disease prevention and health promotion.

Our members, the accredited schools of public health, are uniquely situated to address issues concerning academic-practice linkages, workforce development, and curriculum and training development.

In addition, ASPH works with a number of federal agencies, including CDC, HRSA , USDA, EPA, NLM, "national public health organizations", as well as state and local public health departments to address these issues.

The mission of ASPH is integrally related to the objectives of the this year's Partnering Meeting, which are to:

- ❖ promote an understanding in academic health institutions of CDC's role in public health and preventive care and CDC's research priorities and potential for extramural research funding;
- ❖ provide a venue for participants to share partnering experiences;
- ❖ highlight model collaborations;
- ❖ exchange ideas for research and funding opportunities and learn about the cooperative agreement process; and
- ❖ develop a skilled and educated public health workforce responsive to the diverse American population.

ASPH/CDC/ATSDR Cooperative Agreement

In 1981, the creation of the ASPH/CDC/ATSDR Cooperative Agreement (CA) was a landmark achievement in the effort to bring together the fields of academic public health and practice.

Since its inception, the purpose of the CA has been to build a bridge between the research capability of the schools of public health (SPH) and the obligations of the CDC/ATSDR and the state and local public health departments that engage in the practice of public health. This mission continues to be accomplished each year.

This collaborative effort with CDC/ATSDR enables schools of public health, both directly and indirectly via ASPH, to further develop the public health workforce and improve the interaction between public health academicians. This is done to enhance the preparation of future public health workers, as well as to meet the year 2010 Healthy People objectives at the state and local level. Results from the CA projects continue to find their way into the curriculum of schools of public health, publications, and collaboration.

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